

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to the Abstract. Applicants amended the Abstract to overcome the Examiner's objection.

The Examiner objected to the Drawings. Applicants amended FIGs. 5-9, as shown in the attached replacement sheets of the drawings to include the "Prior Art" label requested by the Examiner to overcome the objection.

The Examiner objected to the Specification for not having a brief description of FIGs. 8 and 9. Applicants amended the description of the drawings in the Specification to provide a description of FIGs. 8 and 9 to overcome the objection to the Specification.

The Examiner rejected claims 19 and 38 as failing to comply with the written description requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, par. 1 on the grounds that the Specification does not reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the weight idler can comprise a non-rotatable member. (Office Action, pg. 2) Applicants traverse the Section 112 rejection because the Application expressly discloses on page 9, lines 2-4 that "the feed assistance member can be a non-rotatable member." Thus, the Application discloses and provides sufficient written description of the requirements of claims 19 and 38 concerning the non-rotatable member. Accordingly, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the Section 112, par. 1 rejection.

The Examiner rejected pending claims 2, 3, 5, 7-12, 14, 16-18, 20, 21, 23-25, 27, 29, 30, and 32-37 as anticipated (35 U.S.C. §102) by Sone (Japanese Patent No. JP20-81842). Applicants traverse for the following reasons.

Amended claims 2, 10, and 18 concern a medium feeding apparatus for feeding a medium including at least one align roller to align a medium in a path, wherein the align roller is positioned below the medium and is driven to transport the medium in the path. A feed assistance member includes a shaft and a feed assistance roller rotably mounted to the shaft and positioned to apply pressure on the medium in the path to stabilize the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller. The feed assistance member is not rotably connected to the align roller and the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with any roller.

Applicants amended claims 2, 10, and 18 to require that the align roller is positioned below the medium and is driven to transport the medium in the path.

The Examiner cited the rollers of 4 and 14 Sone as disclosing the claimed align rollers. (Office Action, pg. 3) FIG. 4 of Sone shows the roller 4 positioned above the paper, not below as claimed. Further, the cited Sone does not disclose the claim requirement that the roller 4 is driven to transport the medium in the path. Instead, the roller 4 appears to press the paper from the top.

The cited press roller 14 is shown positioned above the paper in FIGs. 2 and 4 and contacts the paper from above, not below the paper as claimed. Further, the cited Sone mentions that the press roller 14 is used to sandwich the paper. (Sone, pg. 6). However, nowhere does the cited Sone disclose the claim requirement that the press roller 14 is below the paper and drives the transport medium in the path.

Moreover, claims 2, 10, and 18 require that the feed assistance roller is not vertically aligned with any roller. The Examiner cited the brush roller 29 of Sone as disclosing the claimed feed assistance roller. The cited brush roller 29 is positioned so that the tape is sandwiched between brush roller 29 and the tape 3 that moves the paper. Applicants submit that from the perspective view of FIGs. 2 and 4 it is not clear that Sone discloses that the brush roller is not aligned with any roller as claimed.

Accordingly, the amended claims 2, 10, and 18 are patentable over the cited Sone because Sone does not disclose all the claim requirements.

Independent claims 3, 12, and 21 recite a feed assistance apparatus for feeding a medium in a medium processing apparatus, comprising: at least one vertical align roller to align the medium in the vertical direction; a lateral align roller to align the medium in the lateral direction; a member portion contacting said medium being fed to increase a frictional force generated on the medium while the medium is being aligned in the path by the at least one align roller; and wherein the member portion is not rotably connected to the align roller, and wherein the member portion is not vertically aligned with any roller, and wherein the member portion is mounted between one lateral align roller and one vertical align roller.

Nowhere does the cited Sone disclose a vertical and lateral align rollers as claimed. Applicants submit that nowhere do the cited rollers 4 and 14, which the Examiner likens to the claimed align rollers, align the medium in different directions as claimed.

Further, nowhere does the cited Sone anywhere disclose that the member portion is not vertically aligned with any roller and is mounted between one lateral align roller and one vertical align roller. For instance, nowhere does the cited Sone disclose that the cited press roller 29 is not vertically aligned with the roller 4 and is between rollers 4 and 14. The cited FIGs. 2 and 4 do not provide sufficient perspective to disclose this claim requirement.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 3, 12, and 21 are patentable over the cited Sone because Sone does not disclose all the claim requirements.

The Examiner rejected claims 11, 23-25, 27, 29, 30, and 32-37 as anticipated by Sone. Applicants traverse because these claims depend directly or indirectly from one of claims 2, 10, 18, and 21, which are patentable for the reasons discussed above.

The Examiner rejected claims 4, 6-9, 13, 15-17, 20, and 22 as obvious (35 U.S.C. §103) over Sone in view of DeFalco (U.S. Patent No. 5,088,848). Applicants traverse for the following reasons.

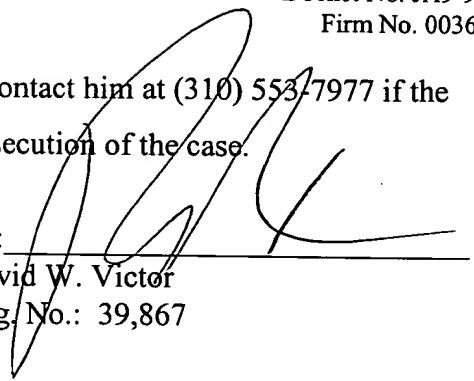
Claims 4, 6-9, 13, 15-17, 20, and 22 are patentable over the cited art because they depend from one of claims 2, 10, and 18, 21 which are patentable over the cited art for the reasons discussed above and because the Examiner did not cite DeFalco for the deficiencies of Sone with respect to independent claims 2, 10, and 18 discussed above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that, for the above discussed reasons, the pending claims 2-38 are patentable over the art of record. Applicants submit that no fee is needed. Nonetheless, should any additional fees be determined to be required, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-0585.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact him at (310) 553-7977 if the Examiner believes such contact would advance the prosecution of the case.

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